

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 07093 191506Z

41

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 NEAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 OMB-01 AID-20 PC-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 RSR-01 /130 W

----- 129137

O 191340Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9896

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

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E.O.: 11652

TAGS: PFOR AF PK

SUBJ: AFGHAN GOUP: ALLEGED MEETING BETWEEN KING ZAHIR AND BHUTTO

REF: KABUL 5276 (NOTAL)

1. REGARDING REPORT OF MEETING IN ROME BETWEEN PAK PRESIDENT
BHUTTO AND KING ZAHIR (LAST PARA,REFTEL), FONOFF HERE DENIES
ANY KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH MEETING AND STRONGLY DOUBTS IT COULD HAVE
TAKEN PLACE . BHUTTO DEPARTED FROM HERE JULY 16 FOR GENEVA
(FOLLOWING CANCELLATION OF WASHINGTON VISIT) AND IS BELIEVED TO
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BE STILL THERE. ACCORDING FONOFF, ZAHIR IS CLOSETED INCOMMUNICADO

IN AFGHAN EMBASSY HERE WITH NO REPEAT NO INDICATION AS TO HIS IMMEDIATE INTENTIONS. AFGHAN EMBASSY HAS PROMISED TO KEEP FONOFF INFORMED AS TO KING'S MOVEMENTS.

2. FONOFF ALSO DOUBTS THAT ZAHIR AND BHUTTO WERE IN CONTACT DURING BHUTTO'S STAY IN ROME JULY 13-16. ALTHOUGH FONOFF DOES NOT REPEAT NOT/RULE OUT POSSIBILITY TELEPHONE CALL BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS, IT IS CERTAIN THAT KING REMAINED IN ISCHIA DURING THIS PERIOD.

3. ON QUESTION OF RECOGNITION OF NEW AFGHAN REGIME, FONOFF SOURCE SAYS THAT MATTER IS STILL UNDER STUDY AND THAT NO DECISION WILL BE TAKEN UNTILL INTERNAL SITUATION FURTHER CLARIFIED.

4. CONTRARY TO WHAT FONOFF LED US TO EXPECT EARLIER, WE HAVE NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN CONTACTED BY AFGHAN EMBASSY FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING COUP DEVELOPMENTS. HOWEVER, PAK EMBASSY DID ASK, AND WE GAVE THE GIST OF KABUL TEL 5220.VOLPE

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